

Serial No. 09/578,426

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Amended) A sterilizable ventricular catheter having a proximal end and a distal segment having a plurality of drainage holes and a closed distal end formed with a slit, said slit being movable between a closed configuration and an open configuration, a {sterilizable} removable film tab inserted into the slit to prevent the edges of the slit from knitting together during sterilization and storage.

2.(Original) The catheter of Claim 1 in which the distal end of the catheter is removably affixed to a paper board holder and one end of the film tab is adhesively secured to the holder.

3.(Amended) The catheter of Claim 1 in which the film tab has a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end of the tab being adhesively secured to a said holder and the distal end having a flap which is positioned in the slit in the catheter.

4.(Original) The catheter of Claim 2 in which the film tab is a polyester film having a thickness of about 1 mil.